

10/706,500 EXHIBIT E - 1/31 DECL.  
3 PAGES

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REGISTERED TO PRACTICE BEFORE

U.S. PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE

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October 28, 2003

By FedEx

Richard Litman  
Litman Law Office  
3717 Columbia Pike  
Arlington, VA 22204

Re: U.S. Patentability Search  
Docket No. 21526

Dear Mr. Litman:

Enclosed is a for an **expedited search** representing the total cost of this search. Kindly conduct a U.S. patentability search for the below invention in longer than one week and hopefully sooner. If you can do it in less than a week I would appreciate it. Also, kindly fax the 3 page search report letter to me when the search and report is completed. This allows me to have what I need as quickly as possible.

Presently the TSA clips the locks on luggage it checks. This a security problem because after inspection of the luggage a terrorist could add a bomb to the luggage and it would look like the luggage was tampered with since it was already opened and remains accessible to anyone else. One cannot assume that airport personnel cannot be terrorists. The second problem with the existing practice is that passengers whose luggage has been clipped no longer have a secure luggage and have been damaged economically and may be angry.

The invention is a method of making airline luggage inspection secure while accommodating the needs of the traveler. The first step of the method is making available to travelers, for example by mass-producing it or certifying it, a special lock having both a combination lock and a key lock. The special lock may be a combination lock but it is structured for receiving a master key that can universally open any lock of this type. For example, there can be a key hole on the bottom for a universal "master" key that provides the second way of opening the lock. The lock is designed to be attachable to airline luggage items such as suitcases. The first step includes making available the special lock to travelers so that they could obtain them and attach them to their luggage.

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The second step of the method is providing an authorized governmental agency, such as the Transportation Security Administration, which is the agency within Homeland Security having the responsibility and authority to check airport luggage, with exclusive (other than the manufacturer) access to the master key. The master key can be provided singly so that it can be duplicated or more likely it can be provided in sufficient quantity to allow the authorized agency's workers to have the ability to non-intrusively open any of the luggage that the workers inspect and deem it appropriate to open, where non-intrusive means in a manner that maintains the integrity of the lock and of the luggage (i.e. without clipping the lock).

Note that only the traveler selects and has the combination so that he or she still has a useful secure lock after passing airport security while the airport security still can open the luggage it inspects as deemed necessary.

Very truly yours,



Steven Horowitz

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## 4b Express Freight Service

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☐ No  
☐ Yes

☐ New  
☐ Old

☐ Dry Ice  
☐ Fragile

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